

7 February 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Staff Meeting Minutes of 7 February 1979

The Director chaired the meeting; Mr. Carlucci was out of the city.

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Mr. McMahon noted receipt of a call from HPSCI staffer Latimer that Congressman Aspin is anxious to start hearings on sensitive collection operations, including the approval process and the various categories of operations. The Director said that this sounded manageable.

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In response to Taylor's question, the Director said that his session yesterday before the HPSCI went well. He found Congressman Burlison friendly, accommodating and well prepared. Congressman Mazzoli raised the main controversial point about including [] for ammunition in the DDO budget. The Committee asked questions about [] national/tactical intelligence, and Intelligence-Related Activities. The Director opined that we may be vulnerable on the latter because possible trade-offs are not being made. [] said that he did not mention it during yesterday's meetings but his staff and the Department of Defense have begun a study of the ELINT mix designed to specify individual targets and missions. If this study is successful, [] believes that the Community will be in a more defensible position before Congress on ELINT matters, where major overlap seems to exist. The Director noted his preference for one overall tactical/strategic ELINT system with []

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[] He cautioned [] against getting in the position of having no backup system. The Director asked to speak to [] and others involved at an appropriate time so that he could understand how the ELINT study was evolving. Resuming his summary of his HPSCI session, the Director noted that the Committee felt not enough money or enough people had been allotted for the production function. The Director called the Leach Amendment to their attention. []

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Hetu noted receiving a call from columnist Jack Anderson saying that a foreign intelligence service had provided him a transcript of the Shah's discussion with Egyptian President Sadat, which was a long, rambling conversation critical of the CIA and President Carter. Hetu said that he would provide Anderson some comment on the discussion.

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In response to the Director's question if anyone had analyzed the tape purported to be the Shah's last remarks to the Iranian military, McMahon said that [] have concluded that the tape was made from clips of various speeches of the Shah. Bowie noted his understanding that some analysis of the tape was being done within the Agency. Dirks mentioned that OSO had the necessary processing capability. The Director asked for a report of the findings tonight so that he could share them with the President tomorrow. He noted that in public statements he has been declining to comment on the authenticity of the tape. [] stated that his staff has provided noncommittal responses to Congressional queries on this topic. (Action: DDS&T) []

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Hetu noted receipt of a query from the New York Post about the validity of a report that CIA was transporting 200,000 pounds of diesel fuel per day from West Germany to Iran. Dirks said that the Air Force was doing so. The Director added that the Department of Defense had chartered a ship that has fuel for Iran that is now on standby in Bahrain. []

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Hetu advised that David Martin of Newsweek informed him that the HPSCI is taking issue with the Director's response to questions about intelligence studies on Iran during his appearance on "Issues and Answers." Bowie explained that one quote read to the Director had come from a study written in May or June and actually published in August. The Director apparently thought the quote came from the draft NIE and stated that this quote had not been published. The Director asked Hetu to examine the transcript and the HPSCI evaluation to determine whether he had made an error. (Action: PA) []

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[] asked if the Agency planned to provide comments on the House report on Iran, noting that his staff believed that the study revealed sources and methods and the Committee should be advised against doing so again in the future. Evans said we were obligated to comment.

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[] said he would check and advise. (Action: LC) []

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Bowie summarized reports that regular Chinese forces have been involved in clashes along the Vietnamese border and a number of people have been killed. []

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(Hitz joined the meeting at this point.)

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Bowie noted that [] Under Secretary of Defense Perry and Dr. Timbie of ACDA briefed several Senators on verification aspects of SALT II. The Senators were pleased with the briefing and suggested that these same individuals should brief other Senators on all kinds of telemetry encryption. Noting that Perry was extremely effective during the briefing, Hitz added that he had forwarded a memorandum on the session. []

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[] mentioned that a counsel for an environmental legislative committee said that she found CIA the most responsive Executive agency and the Agency's analytical work excellent. []

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Wortman reported that the supergrade promotion ceremony scheduled for this afternoon will be rescheduled at a later date. []

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In response to the Director's question if Agency personnel were in danger, McMahon said that Khomeini has declared that all Americans should be out of the country by 27 February. McMahon suggested that the dialogue between Khomeini and Prime Minister Bakhtiar would have to be monitored closely during the next week. He said that a cable from the Ambassador last night revealed the first thread of hope for a compromise government. The Director expressed concern about the amount of time required to evacuate people once a decision has been made to do so. He advised that the Administration planned to back the Bakhtiar government. The Iranian military is to establish control of selected sectors, including government buildings, radio and television stations and the oil fields. The military would then hopefully defend these areas if

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mobs attack them. The Director said that if the latter comes to pass, the mobs may turn to Americans as alternative targets. [REDACTED]

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Alluding to an item in today's State Summary, the Director said that he would be interested in any indications of a Cuban drawdown of forces in Ethiopia. He asked McMahon [REDACTED] to determine what might be behind any drawdown that does take place. (Action: DDO)

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